(c) whether the targets are likely to be achieved, if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) during 1996-97, total 4000 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are targetted to be provided. The SSA-wise details are in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(b) Total 249 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided till 31.10.1996. Details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir. The targets are likely to be achieved.

**Statement**

| Name of SSA | Target for 1996-97 to provide VPTs. | Achievement since April, 96 (as on 31.10.96) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Ahmedabad | 66 | — |
| 2. Amreli | 70 | — |
| 3. Bharuch | 300 | 4 |
| 4. Bhavnagar | 137 | — |
| 5. Jamnagar | 113 | — |
| 6. Junagadh | 200 | 26 |
| 7. Panchmahal | 475 | — |
| 8. Surat | 300 | 43 |
| 9. Vadodara | 479 | 18 |
| 10. Valsad | 400 | 27 |
| 11. Banaskantha | 400 | 64 |
| 12. Kheda | 77 | — |
| 13. Kutch-Bhuj | 300 | 21 |
| 14. Mehsana | 143 | — |
| 15. Rajkot | 93 | 15 |
| 16. Sabarkantha | 392 | 31 |
| 17. Surendranagar | 3 | — |
| 18. Union Territories | 52 | — |
| TOTAL | 4000 | 249 |

**Allocation of Funds for Road Safety in Andhra Pradesh**

607. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for road safety in Andhra Pradesh for 1996-97;

(b) whether such funds have been released;

(c) whether it is a fact that specific requests have been made for release of funds and facilities for road safety in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have called any meeting in this regard;?

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) There is no State-wise allocation of funds for road safety.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government have received representations requesting for setting up of rest area and for taking steps to enhance road safety in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Proposal to Establish a Fund for Development of National Highways**

608. SHRI O. P. KOHLI:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish a fund for the development and upkeep of National Highways in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is also a proposal to impose a tax on diesel and petrol prices to raise funds; if so, how much increase

in the prices is proposed and since when?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The proposal is still at conceptual stage.

**Capacity of Telephone Exchange at Tadepalligudem**

609. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of the telephone exchange at Tadepalligudem in West Godavari;

(b) the extent of utilisation of this capacity;

(c) whether there is any waiting list for phone under Tadepalligudem exchange; and

(d) the details of the demand which exists for phone connections?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) 3000 Lines.

(b) 97.2%.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The waiting list details as on 31.10.96 are as follows:—

| Category | No of applications |
|---|---|
| OYT | 5 |
| NON-OYT-Special | 18 |
| NON-OYT-General | 974 |

**Diverting Surplus Water of Brahmaputra**

610. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) wheter Government of India have any plan to divert the surplus water of Brahmaputra river to the arid areas of Manipur through the Barah River; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to undertake a study in this regard by the Central Water Commission or any proposal from the Brahmaputra River Board for the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) No plans have either been prepared or proposed for study by agencies of the Government of India for diversion of Brahmaputra waters into the territory of Manipur through any river including Barah river.

**PCO Facilities in Post Offices in Maharashtra**

611. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the post offices in the rural areas of Maharashtra have been covered with PCO facilities as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to cover all the post offices with PCO facilities in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 10947 Post Offices have been provided with P.C.O. facilities.

(c) N/A.

**विदेशों में रहने वाले भारतीय नागरिकों की जनगणना**

612. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या विदेश मंत्री 17 जुलाई, 1996 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 429 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) भारत के साथ राजनयिक संबंधों वाले देशों में कुल कितने भारतीय नागरिक निवास कर रहे हैं; और

(ख) क्या ऐसे प्रवासी भारतीय नागरिकों के संबंध में कोई नियमित जनगणना की जाती है?